

Message Text

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TAGS: OECD, EC, EGEN

SUBJECT: OECD COORDINATION OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES

FOLLOWING BRIEFING PAPER IS PROVIDED FOR USE AT XCSS
BUREAU MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 1977.

TALKING POINTS

-- MORE THAN FIFTEEN SEPARATE GROUPS IN THE OECD ARE ACTIVE
IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS. THEY DEAL
WITH THE FULL GAMUT OF ISSUES, FROM AID AND COMMODITIES
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TO THE LDC ASPECTS OF TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

-- THESE COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES ARE HELPING MEMBER
STATES TO CLARIFY COMPLEX ISSUES, AND IN MANY CASES TO
REACH COMMON VIEWS. THEY ALSO PROVIDE USEFUL BACKSTOPPING
TO ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS, E.G. UP UNTIL LAST MAY FOR CIEC
AND NOW FOR THE CONTINUING UNCTAD COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS.

MEMBER STATES HAVE ALSO USED THE OECD FOR DECLARATIONS OF THEIR AGREED INTENTIONS AND POLICY GUIDELINES. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOK TO OUR MINISTERS' 1976 DECLARATION FOR AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF OECD POLICIES TOWARD MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND TO THE 1977 DECLARATION FOR OECD VIEWS ON THE RESULTS OF THE CIEC.

-- WE WELCOME THESE "BUREAU" MEETINGS DEVOTED TO NORTH/SOUTH MATTERS, FOR HERE WE CAN PUT TOGETHER AT THE POLICY-LEVEL AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT THE SEVERAL OECD COMMITTEES HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND IN TURN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THEIR FUTURE WORK.

-- FURTHER, IT IS OUR PERCEPTION THAT IN THE POST-CIEC PERIOD WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WILL NOW TAKE PLACE IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORA. THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR MEMBER STATES TO COME TOGETHER TO REVIEW PROGRESS, TO COORDINATE OUR POSITIONS AND TO PREPARE FOR IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. IN THIS REGARD WE PROPOSE THAT THE NEXT "BUREAU" MEETING REVIEW THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE RESUMPTION OF 31ST UNGA AND THE OPENING OF THE 32ND AS WELL AS THE STATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER COMMON FUND MEETING. WE MAY ALSO WANT TO REVIEW THE DAC'S WORK ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

BACKGROUND
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REACTING TO THE CLOSELY COORDINATED TACTICS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AFTER 1973 THE U.S. SOUGHT TO HAVE THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SET UP THEIR OWN FORMAL COORDINATING MECHANISM IN THE OECD. AT THE JUNE 1976 MINISTERIAL SECRETARY KISSINGER CALLED ON MEMBER STATES TO BACK SUCH AN EFFORT, ARGUING THAT WE COULD BETTER PROTECT DEVELOPED COUNTRY INTERESTS IF WE JOINTLY PREPARED FOR "IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS" AND EVOLVED AN AGREED LONG-TERM STRATEGY. UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS FOLLOWED UP THE PROPOSAL AT THE JULY AND NOVEMBER 1976 XCSS MEETINGS BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. PROPOSALS CAME FROM THOSE WHO FEARED A LOSS OF FLEXIBILITY AND TOO CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH OUR POSITIONS; FROM THOSE WHO MIGHT BE EXCLUDED FROM A RESTRICTED GROUP; FROM THOSE OPPOSED TO THE OECD SPINNING OFF FURTHER GROUPS.

SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH TO THE JUNE 1977 MINISTERIAL CHANGED OUR APPROACH BUT KEPT THE GOAL OF BETTER COORDINATION. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SET UP A NEW GROUP WE SOUGHT TO GIVE SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP A CLEARER MANDATE TO TAKE A LEAD IN NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS. BECAUSE MOST MEMBER

STATES ACCEPT THE NEED FOR INFORMAL COORDINATION, SECRETARY VANCE'S SUGGESTION WAS ADOPTED AND REFLECTED IN THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION. BY USING THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED "BUREAU" MECHANISM OF THE XCSS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS EXERCISED HIS NORTH/SOUTH MANDATE WITHOUT HAVING TO CREATE A NEW GROUP. THE RESTRICTED FORMAT OF "BUREAU" MEETINGS SHOULD MAKE DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING EASIER. THIS

MEETING IS AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT FOR EVOLVING THE OECD'S NORTH/SOUTH ROLE.

THE "BUREAU" BRINGS TOGETHER THE RIGHT MIX OF PARTICIPANTS. WHILE IT IS SMALL, IT IS ALSO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEMBER STATES AS A WHOLE. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THE EC NINE HAVE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET WORKED OUT THE EC COMMISSION'S FUNCTION NOW THAT ITS CIEC MANDATE HAS EXPIRED, THE COMMISSION HAS A TRADITIONAL PLACE AT THE "BUREAU" AND CAN BE A FORCE FOR UNITING THE OFTEN VERY DIFFERENT EUROPEAN VIEWPOINTS. IN ADDITION, THE BELGIANS WHO HOLD THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 1977 WILL ALSO BE PRESENT. VANCE

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